

## PATENT

## REMARKS

The present application was allowed on the first Office Action. In order to correct various informalities, this amendment is being submitted. The Applicants regret any inconvenience to the Office.

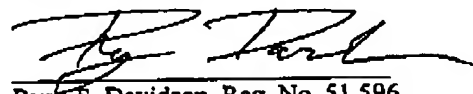
Claims 1 and 17, as originally filed, had a number of syntactical and structural informalities. The Applicants have amended the claims to correct these informalities. The amendments do not introduce new matter and do not alter the scope of the claims. Entry thereof is respectfully requested.

The Applicants respectfully submit that the present application remains in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at the below listed telephone number in order to expedite resolution of any issues and to expedite passage of the present application to issue, if any comments, questions, or suggestions arise in connection with the present application.

The Applicants do not believe that any additional fees are due, but if the Commissioner believes additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number 01-0365.

Respectfully submitted,

June 4, 2004  
Date



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On Behalf Of  
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